ANOTHER
RABCO
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issue 4
$5.00
mature readers

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issue 4
winter 2001

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From the Editor's Desk

So, here it is, Summer 2003, and you're wondering, "Why the heck didn't come out in winter of 2001 like it says right there on this page? What brand of crack are you on, Sean?" It's simple. The book was not supposed to come out in Winter 2001. The subtitle of this issue is Winter 2001. "What?" you say...

Circles progresses in a quarterly real time. Each issue progresses the story three months. Thus, in our last episode, you experienced September and October 2001. Now, the winter months have come and it's time for the holiday season in Boston. That doesn't stop the fact that it's July 2003 when this book came out, though.

You'll notice one minor change to our legaleeze below. Circles is now a proud publication of the newly formed Rabbit Valley Artists Cooperative Association, a non-profit publishing cooperative formed for our loyal Rabbit Valley artists and writers. In our post-September 11th economy, insurance companies have taken an extra careful look at all the organizations they insure. In our case, Rabbit Valley was denied insurance coverage three times by three separate companies because of what you see right here, a comic book containing images of gay males. Yep, you read that right, I'm afraid. Even though there is nothing in here that you wouldn't see in a PG movie, it's officially porn as far as the insurance industry goes.

In an effort to protect both the Rabbit Valley name as well as the artists which you help support, we created a separate company just for them. The Rabbit Valley Artists Cooperative provides printing and advertising services to independant artists who would normally not have access to these resources. Not to mention the fact that they don't have to get dirty looks when hitting the local copy shop chain.

If you are an artist, and you would like to take advantage of the services of our cooperative, please visit http://www.rabbitvalley.org/ for more information. Artists may join for little or no membership fee and take advantage of low priced copying and printing services as well as our new huge printer for creating full color posters. You'll also be able to learn from the experience of our more senior artists, ask advice on our mailing lists, and more. We will be adding benifits as we grow.

If you are just a fan and would like to help spread the word of the great artists we support, you can join as an associate member. Membership isn't tax deductable yet (gotta fill out that IRS paperwork, ya know), but you'll help get the word out about furry and anthropomorphic artwork and support an artist though our charatable works.

Other than that, it's been a pretty quiet year here in Rabbit Valley. We're all employed full time again (unlike last year), and some of us are far more employed than we may wish! Overtime is great, but ya gotta draw comics sometime, right? Get it while the gettin's good, I say.

We always look forward to hearing your comments. Join in our Yahoo! Group mailing list to discuss the comic and life, slightly bent, in general. Visit the web site http://groups.yahoo.com/group/circles-comic/ to sign up.

Until next issue... -Sean

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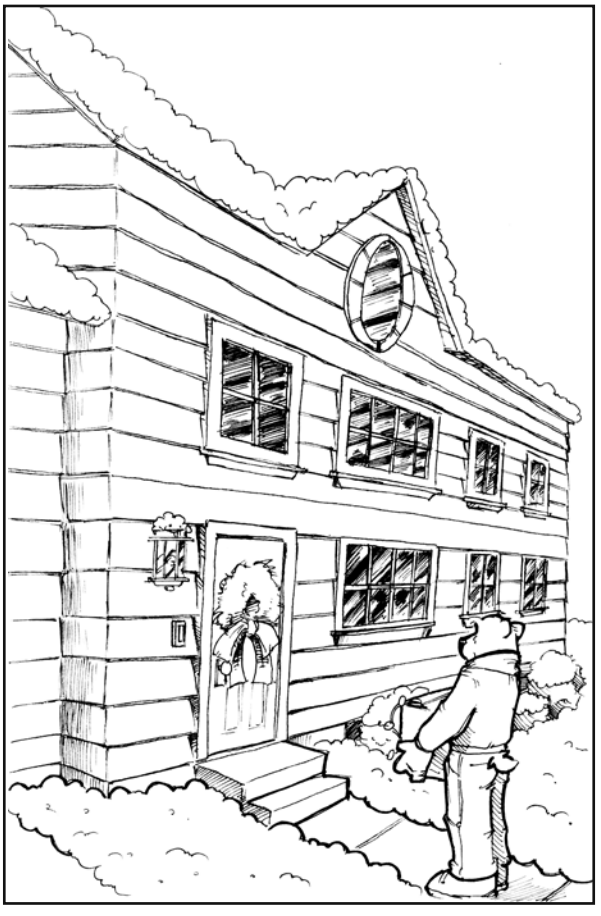
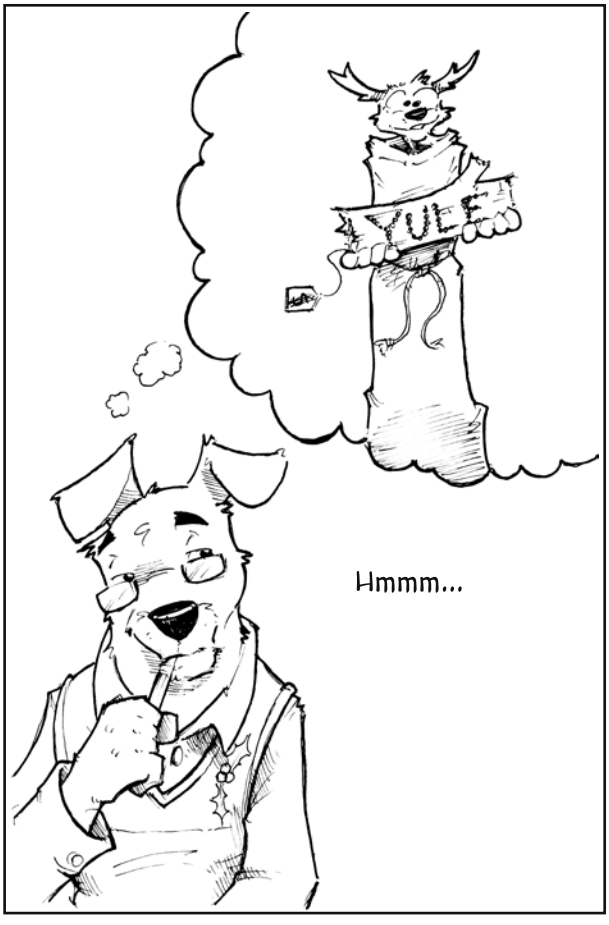


Dear Douglas,
Ho, ho, ho!!!

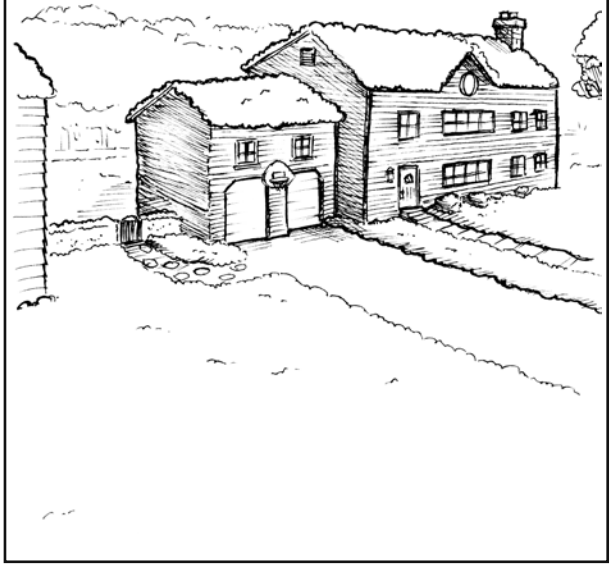
Yes, yes, I know. I should write something about the crass commercialism of Christmas here, or how it was usurped from ancient Pagan traditions, or something similarly harsh to show what a witty and urbane and cynical person the world has made me...



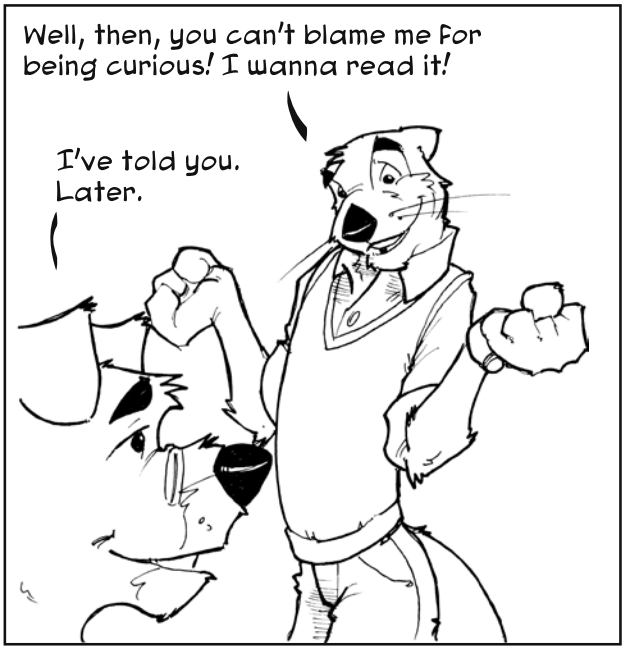
You and I both know, however, that if I tried to say that I don't care for Christmas, it would be a blatant lie.

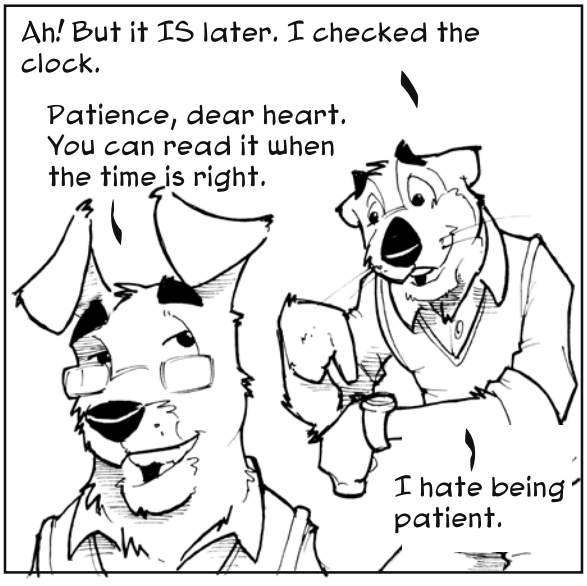
I LOVE Christmas. I'm a junkie for it. I crave it every year like a drowning man craves air. I spend all autumn straining towards it in my soul. Maybe it's my way of keeping young... or at least immature.

But I'm sure that I shall always love Christmas.



Do you mind? This is private.
But I saw my name on that page. It caught my eye.
Your name is on EVERY page. I could hardly keep a journal otherwise.

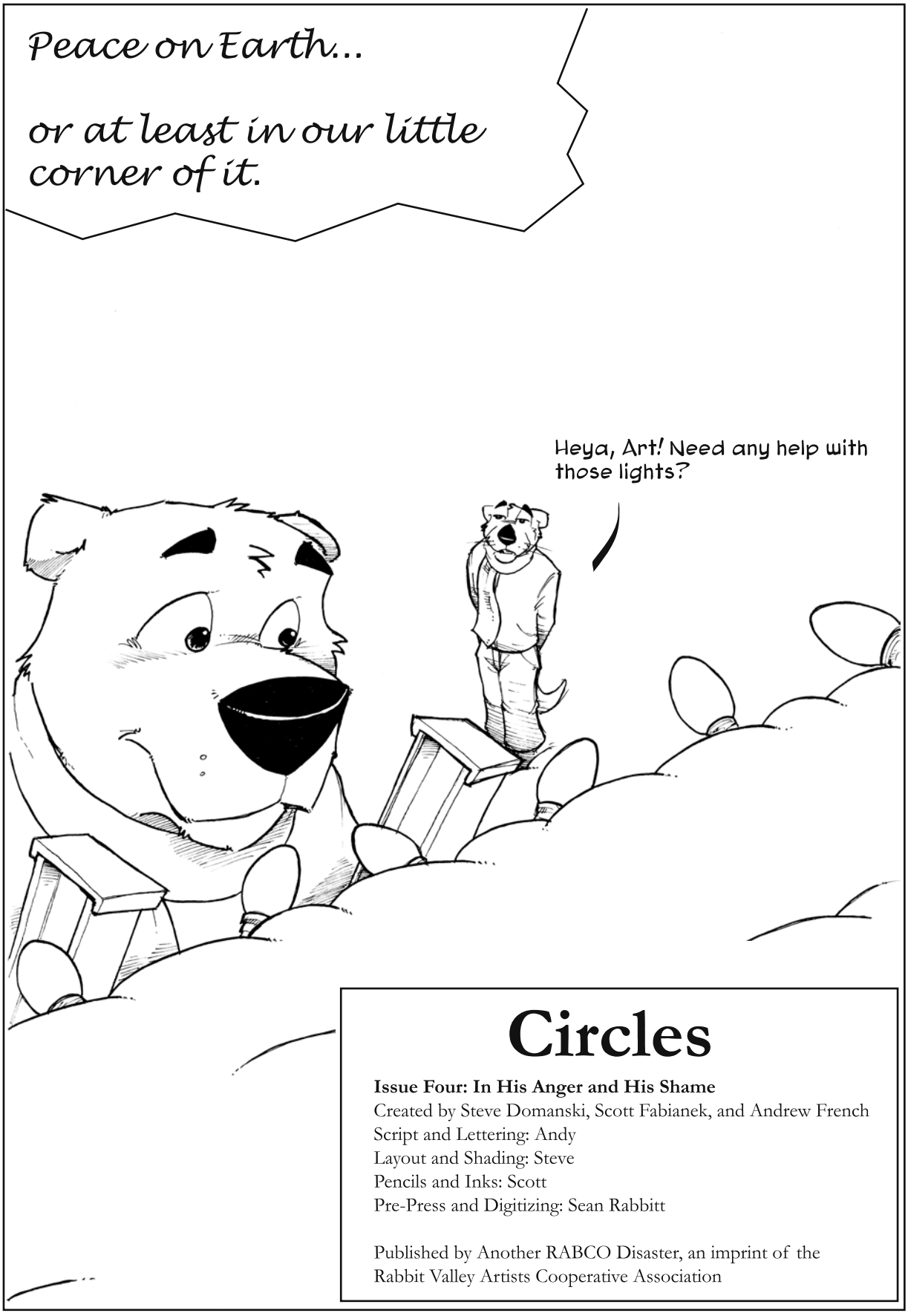

Well, then, you can't blame me for being curious! I wanna read it!
I've told you. Later.


Ah! But it IS later. I checked the clock.
Patience, dear heart. You can read it when the time is right.
I hate being patient.

Why don't you go offer to help Arthur? You can ask him about the party.
Hmph. A painfully transparent attempt to distract me from my rightful reading material.

Will you go help Arthur, you silly thing?
Yeah, yeah...

You get pretty excited around Christmas, yourself, like a kid who wants to peek at his presents. But by making up with Arthur...
...you've already given me what I wanted for Christmas...



Circles

Issue Four: In His Anger and His Shame

Created by Steve Domanski, Scott Fabianek, and Andrew French
Script and Lettering: Andy
Layout and Shading: Steve
Pencils and Inks: Scott
Pre-Press and Digitizing: Sean Rabbitt

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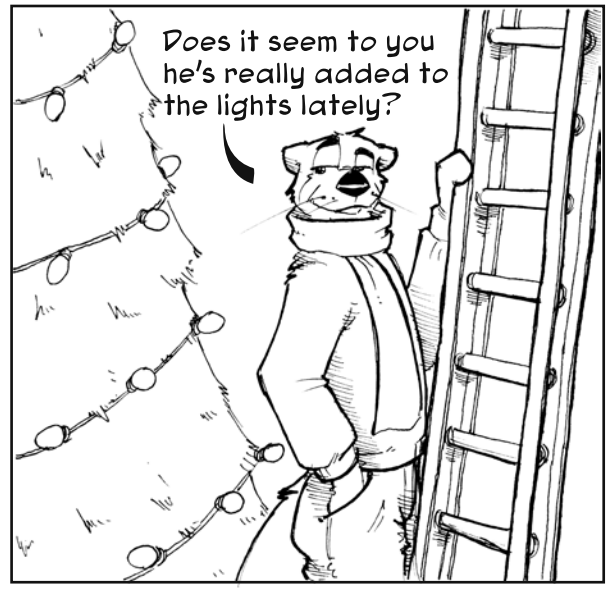
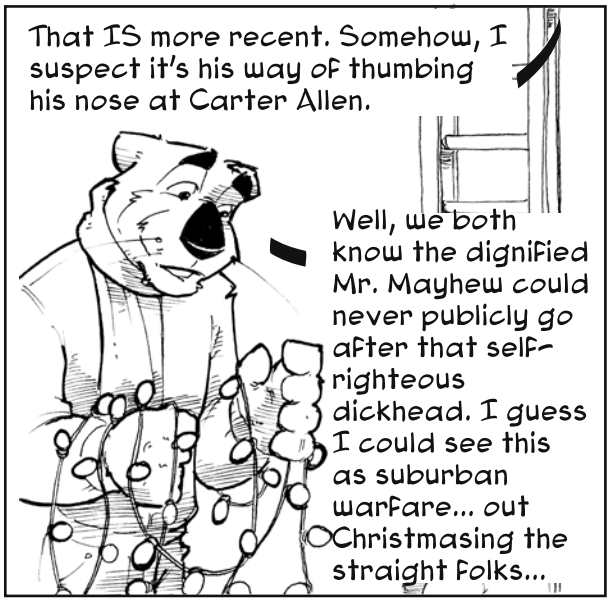
Hey, sure, Doug. Got one more section to do, and then we'll be finished.
Y'know, it never ceases to amaze me.
What's that?

How ga-ga Paulie goes at Christmas.
I mean, he doesn't go to church or anything.

He's always been that way, too. I think he uses Christmas as his way of celebrating another year with his "Family."


Does it seem to you he's really added to the lights lately?


That IS more recent. Somehow, I suspect it's his way of thumbing his nose at Carter Allen.
Well, we both know the dignified Mr. Mayhew could never publicly go after that self-righteous dickhead. I guess I could see this as suburban warfare... out Christmasing the straight folks...

Speaking of suburban warfare... shall we launch the first volley?
You may fire at will, Sir.

Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way!
...mumble, mumble...

FWAASH!!!
Gah!!!

Wow!
Lookit, Daddy!

S'even better'n last year!
Yeah!

SLAM

That's my Paulie.

Wow... that is really... gaudy.
Yes. Yes it is.

Heh. Don't let Paulie hear you say that, though. He loves those lights.
No, no. I mean it in a good way. Thanks for doing it, by the way.

Of course. Paulie knows I'd do anything for him.
Well, you put up with me all that time.

Don't you bring that up. It's over. Everything's cool between us.
Yeah... well... that's kind of the other reason I'm down here.

Oh? Well, what's up, Doug?
Well, you know that family shelter I've gotten my work involved with?

Sure. That's actually one the things I always admired about you. You get so involved and passionate with these community projects and stuff...
Yeah? Well, um... how'd you like to get involved?

Sure! I'd be happy to. You need a building painted or something?
Um... well, no. It's a little more... It's different than that.

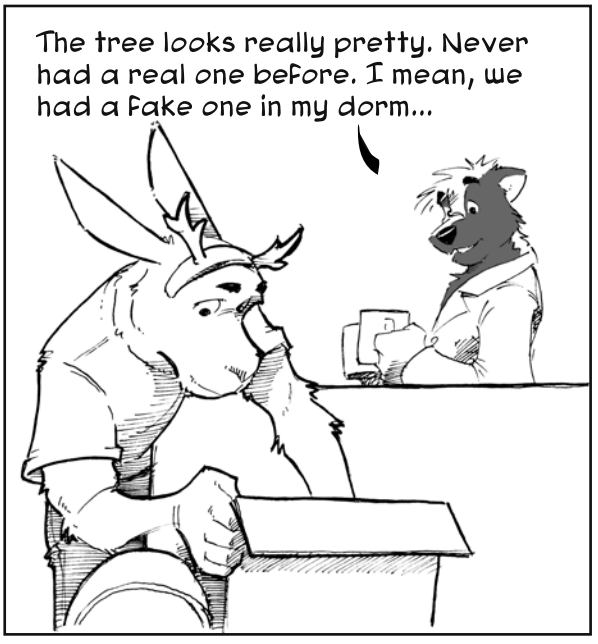
Okay... spit it out. What do you need?
Well, we're having a Christmas party in a couple of weeks. The kids sent letters to Santa with lists of stuff they want, and we wanted to have Santa hand them out to the younger kids.

Aw... that's really cute. You need me to pick up some stuff? I'd be glad to make a donation.
Um... actually... I was kind of hoping you'd... hand the gifts out?

Heh! You want me to be Santa?
One guy was gonna do it, only now his kid is getting married, and no one else is the right size and build for it...
Sure. I'll do it.
Really?

You provide the red suit, and I'll provide the ho, ho, ho!
Oh, man, Art. You're a saint!

After all, it's Christmas. And what else are friends for?

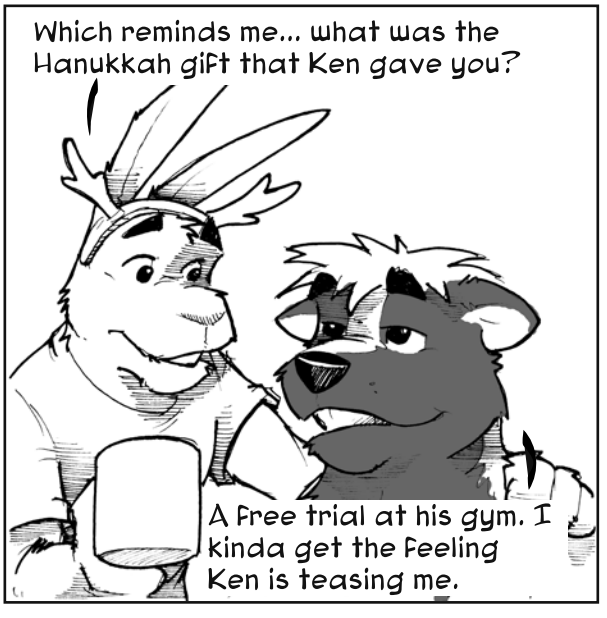

The tree looks really pretty. Never had a real one before. I mean, we had a fake one in my dorm...

Of course, it kind of tended to get decorated with ornaments made out of beer cans and stuff.
Well, alcohol says Christmas to a lot of people.
Well, this is way nicer anyhow. Smells great, too.

My family always got a real tree. My holiday wouldn't be complete without that smell.

I can't wait to put presents under it!
Well, celebrating Hanukkah with your folks was fun, too! It's neat having presents every day.

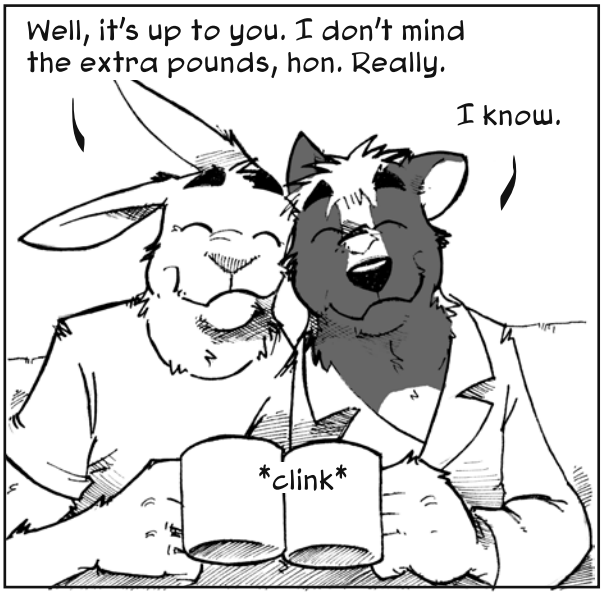
Well, you can tell my folks are really taking to the idea of us being together. You got better presents than me.
I can't help it if I inspire people's generous natures.

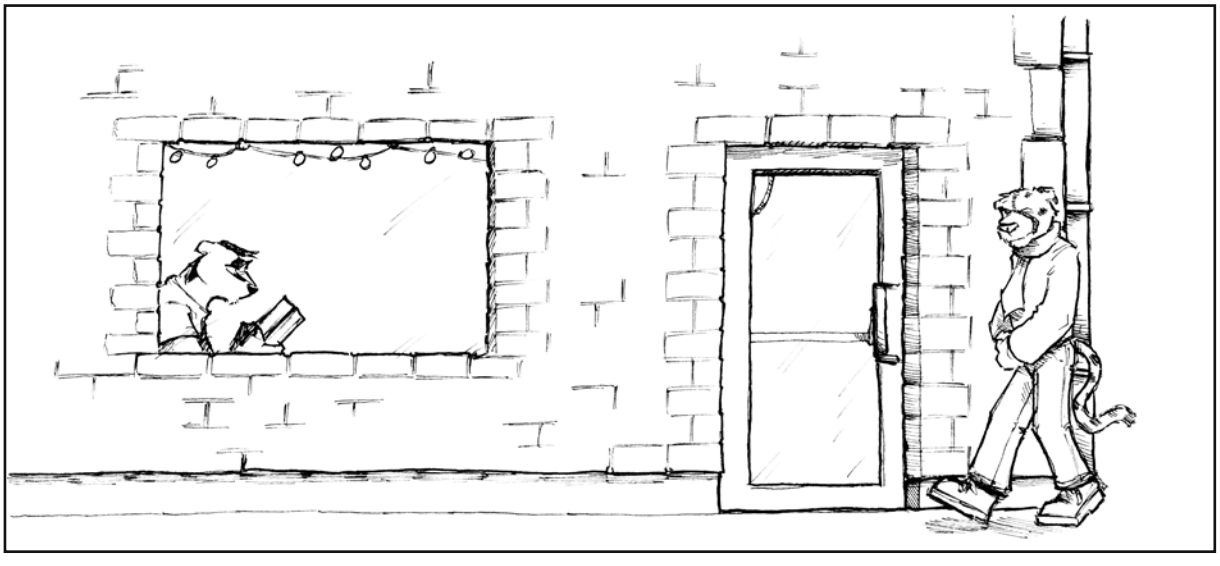

Which reminds me... what was the Hanukkah gift that Ken gave you?
A free trial at his gym. I kinda get the feeling Ken is teasing me.

I'm not sure Ken is that subtle. He may think he's doing you a favor.
I'm thinking of redeeming it.

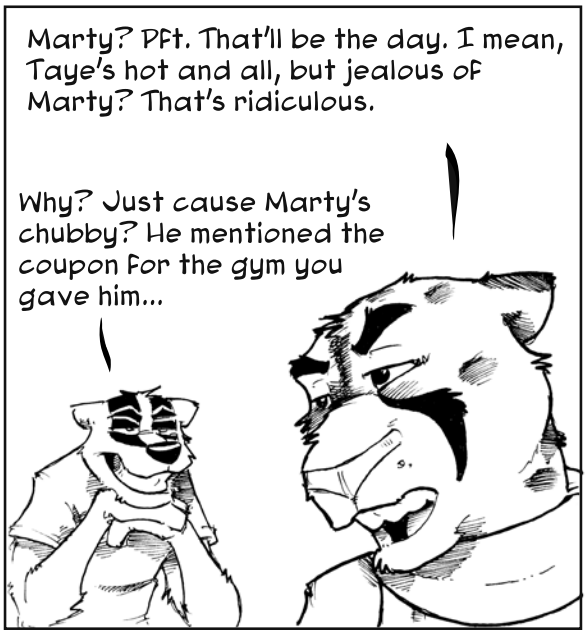
Really?! Why?
Well... I know you don't mind me like this...

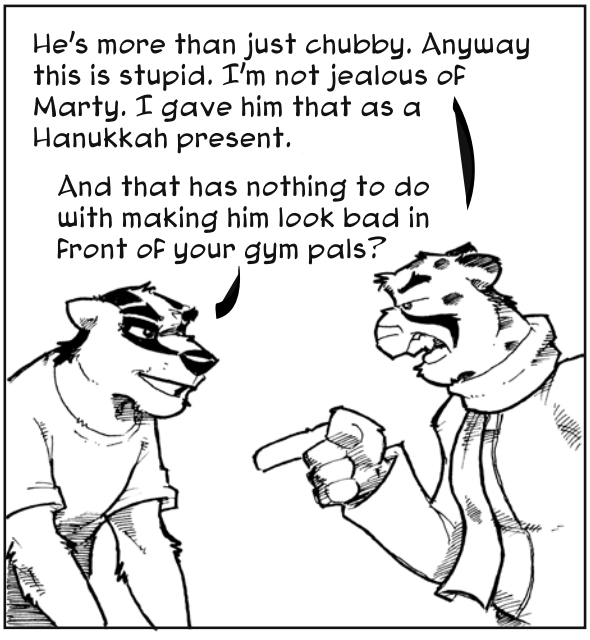
I LOVE you like this.
Yeah... but I've put on some pounds since Thanksgiving. I was thinking of trying to lose 'em.


Well, it's up to you. I don't mind the extra pounds, hon. Really.
I know.
clink



Well, hey there, stranger.
Yo, Johnny. Long time no see.
And to what do I owe the honor?
Christmas shopping. Gotta find sumpin' for Taye.
Well, I woulda recommended that new Broadway collection, but Marty already picked that up for him.
Marty, huh? Well, that figures.
They've really become quite the item, huh?
Mm... I guess.
Well, never saw that before.
Saw what?
You jealous.
Jealous? Jealous of who?
Marty. Never realized you were that hot for Taye. Not that I blame you.


Marty? Pft. That'll be the day. I mean, Taye's hot and all, but jealous of Marty? That's ridiculous.
Why? Just cause Marty's chubby? He mentioned the coupon for the gym you gave him...


He's more than just chubby. Anyway this is stupid. I'm not jealous of Marty. I gave him that as a Hanukkah present.
And that has nothing to do with making him look bad in front of your gym pals?

This is so dumb. It's just a gift. I'm trying to be nice... help him out.
Well, whatever. Not my business I guess.

Hey... you're Ken Brassai, aren't
Yeah, so?

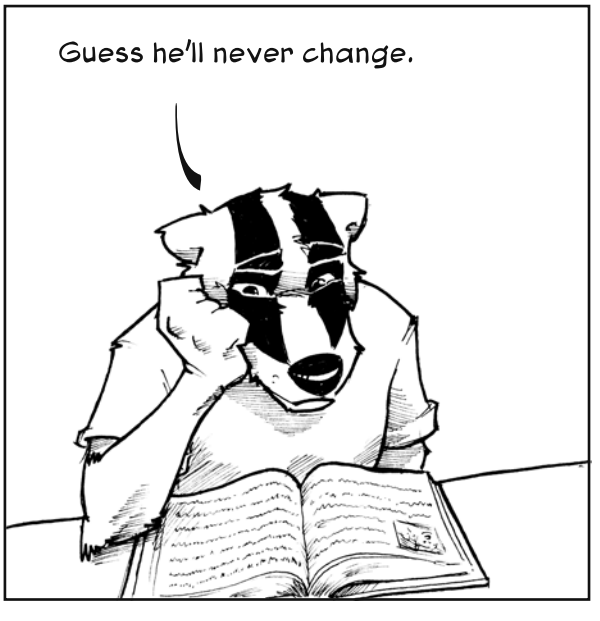
I'm Michael Lang. You went out with my roommate, Darryl, for a few weeks about this time last year.
Mm. Darryl... yeah. You still live with him?

Nope. Got my own place, now. Takin' some graduate classes, workin' at a camera store. How 'bout you?
I dunno. Workin'... Partyin'.

Heh. Just like when you were seein' Darryl. Who you seein' now?
No one, really. You?
No one, really. Say, you busy?

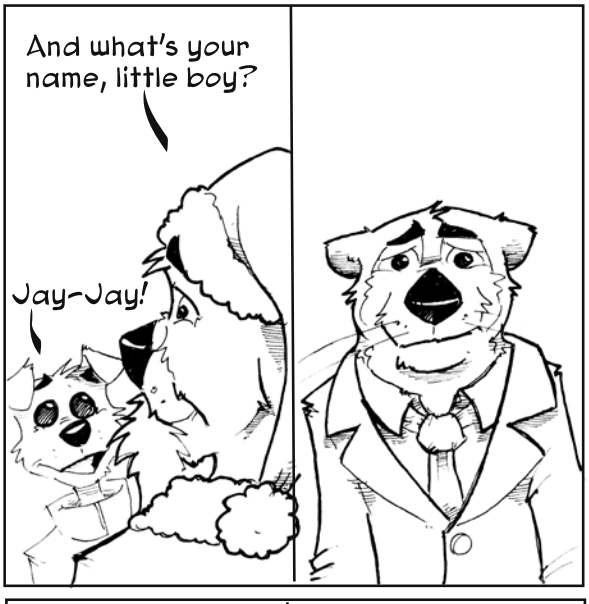
Huh. Jus' some shopping. Whatcha got in mind?
Oh, I'm pretty negotiable, sexy.
Yeah?

Yup. And my place is nearby... it's over this nice little Italian place...
Oh, yeah... I think I know the one.


Guess he'll never change.

HO, HO, HO! Merry Christmas!
SANTA!

Don't push, now. Santa has time and presents enough for all of you.


And what's your name, little boy?
Jay-Jay!

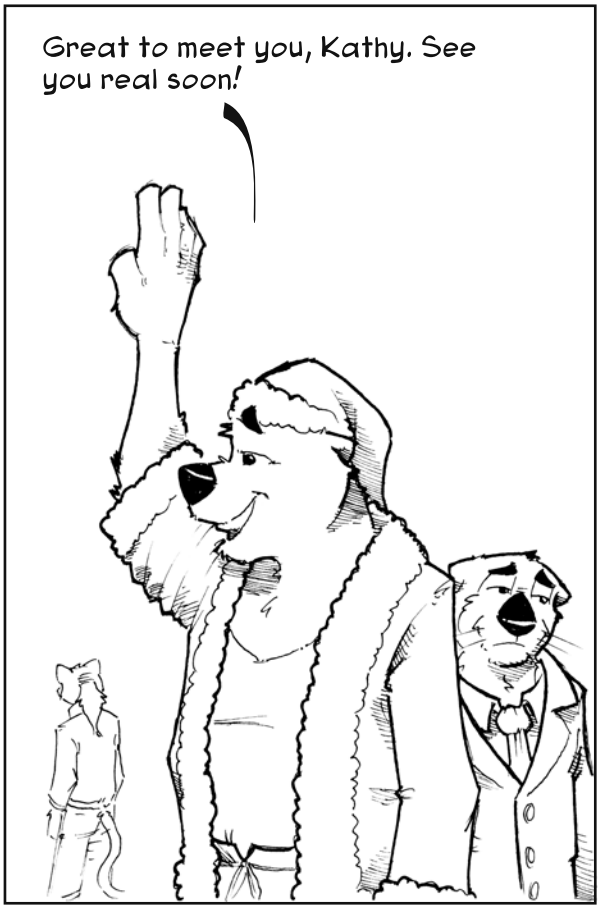
Have you been a good boy this year, Jay-Jay?
Yessir, Mr. Santa!

Well, I got your letter, Jay-Jay, and I know you asked for something special...

Oh! Oh Wow! Thank you, Mr. Santa! Lookit Dad!

Art, I can't thank you enough, really. It meant so much to the children.
Seriously, Kathy, don't mention it. I had a lot of fun.

God knows we can all use a little lifts to our spirits this year.
That's sure the truth.
smeck

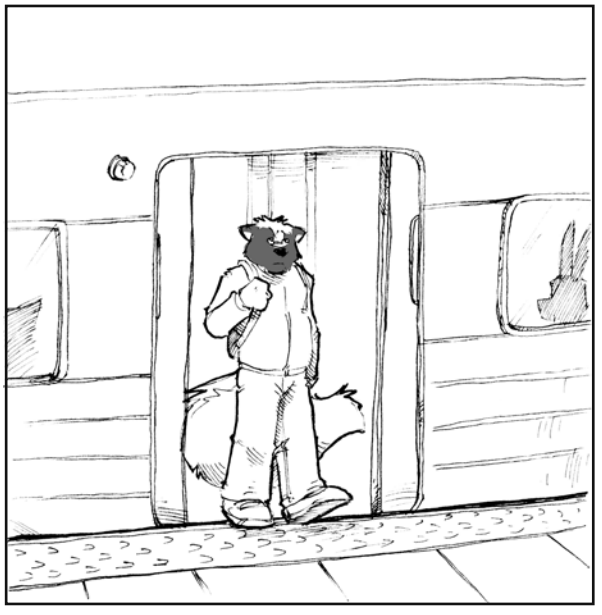

Great to meet you, Kathy. See you real soon!

You okay?
Huh? Oh... yeah. Yeah. Just a lot on my mind.
Such as?

You and me. Paulie. Christmas. Some family members I've been neglecting. I think I need to do some major house cleaning. Take some responsibility for what I've done in my life instead of running from it.
Well, you're off to a good start, right? We're talking... getting friendly, even.

Yeah... I'm really glad about it, too. That's one thing I've put right in my life. But it reminds me that I have a lot left to go.

Eh... you'll get there. And if I can help in any way, I will.
Thanks, Art. I won't forget that.

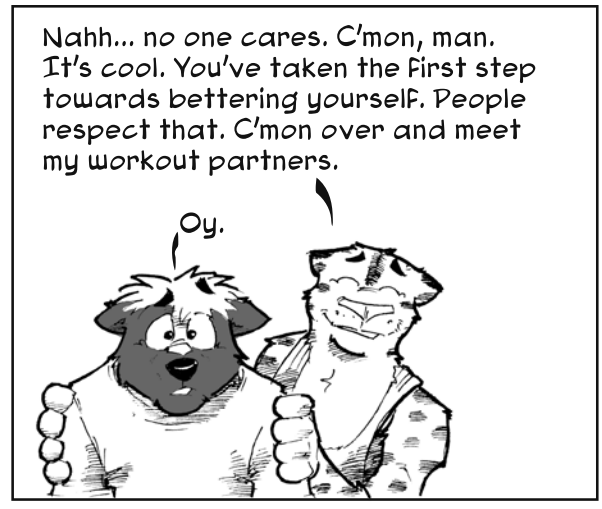


LOCKER ROOM
I must be crazy...

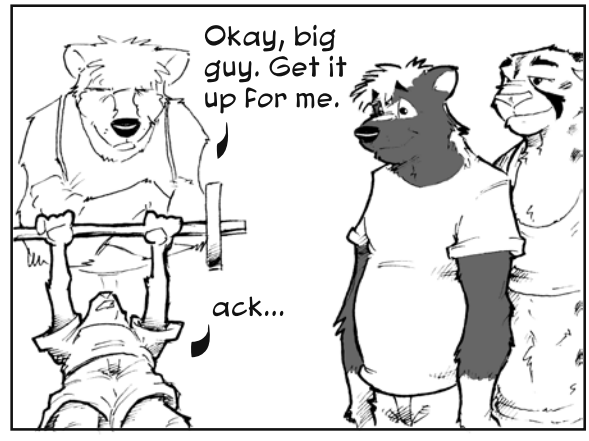
Hey, Marty! You came!
Well, sure...

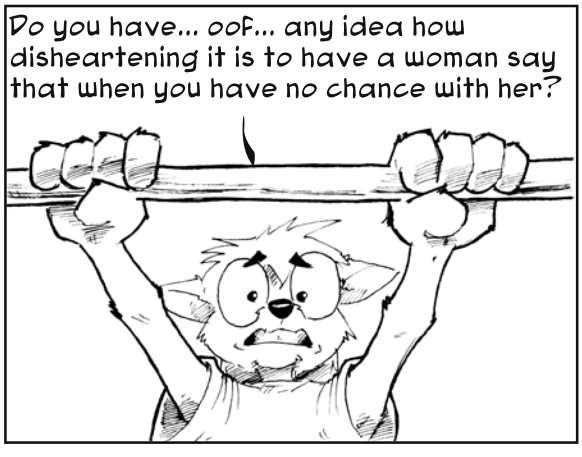
HEY, EVERYONE! THIS IS MARTY! HE'S NEW HERE!
Ehhh... Ken. I'm feeling self-conscious as it is...

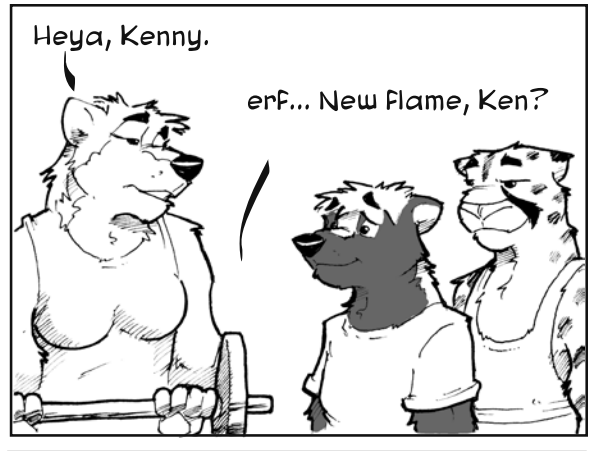
Huh? Why?
Um... well it's kind of obvious I don't belong here...


Nahh... no one cares. C'mon, man. It's cool. You've taken the first step towards bettering yourself. People respect that. C'mon over and meet my workout partners.
Oy.

Oh, great. Another queer. That's all this place needs...


Okay, big guy. Get it up for me.
ack...


Do you have... oof... any idea how disheartening it is to have a woman say that when you have no chance with her?


Heya, Kenny.
erf... New Flame, Ken?

Ha, ha, Dave.
You're Marty, right? You live under Ken? That must be noisy.

Some nights.
Wise-ass.
Heh. I'm Dave. 'S nice t' meetcha.

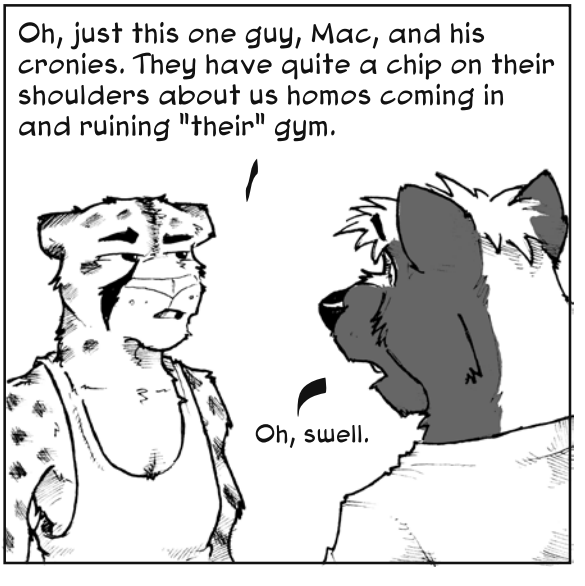
Hey, there, Marty-boy. Name's Gus. Any friend of Ken's...
Hunh! Uh... likewise...
crunch

So, what're we up to today? You still tryin' to build up those scrawny twigs of yours, Dave?
oy...

More or less. Gus has been happily inflicting her systematic torture on me since I arrived...
snicker
And, how many guys can say they've been worked over by a sadistic lesbian without having to pay her?

Just for that, shrimp, I'm gonna getcha in the sparring ring.
ulp
W-well, when I say sadistic lesbian, I mean it as a friend.

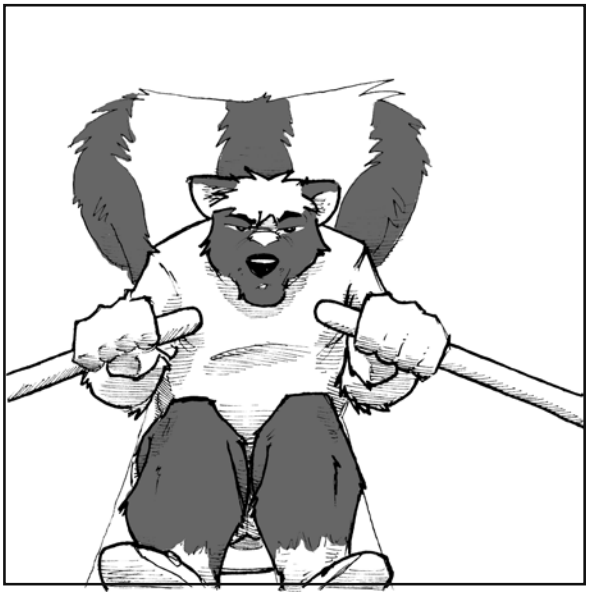
Looks like the peanut gallery's behaving today.
Other than the usual sniggering.
What's up?


Oh, just this one guy, Mac, and his cronies. They have quite a chip on their shoulders about us homos coming in and ruining "their" gym.
Oh, swell.

Assholes like that give us straight guys a bad name.
Dave... you are such a closet case. No one buys that you're straight.
That's just because my last girlfriend went lezbo after sleeping with me.

Thanks for that, by the way. She's a hottie...
Bite me, you rug-munching sasquatch.
That's right, baby. You know I love it when you talk dirty...

Are they always like that?
More or less. Don't worry about them, or about Mac. Let's get you sweatin'!



Here... this sports stuff tastes like crap, but it does help you get rehydrated.
Thanks. I don't know the last time I ached this much. I can't believe Ken and Gus are still up and frisky.

Heh. Yeah, they really go at it, don't they? I don't even try to keep up with them any more.

How'd you hook up with them, anyway?
Well, gyms are usually very cliquish. I didn't really fit in with any of the other cliques. These two were both really nice to me.

I'm just trying to buff up a little. I'm not as hardcore as they are.
I doubt anyone's as hardcore as Gus. What's her story?
Well, her real name's Augusta. Don't let the way we talk fool ya. She's really nice. Just hides it well.

She's been picked on since she was a kid, 'cause she's so big. One day, she just decided that, if anyone was gonna give her crap, they were gonna get a Grade-A Ass-Kick.
She looks like she could give one, too.
Got that right. Whoops. Looks like it's my turn in the ring. Have fun.

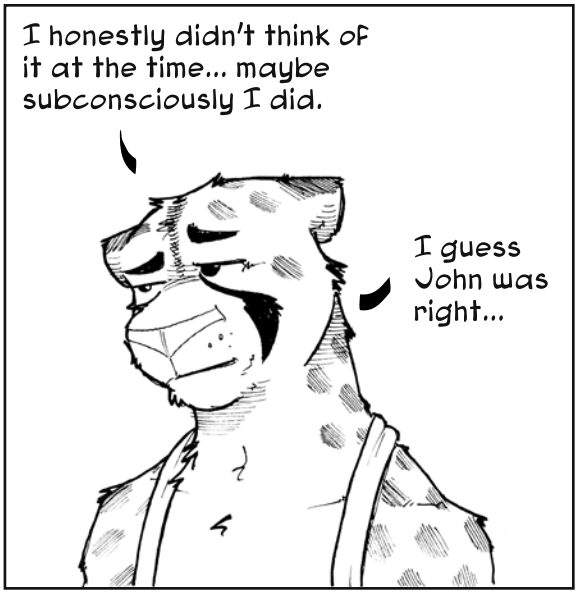
Hey, Marty. Mind if I have a swig of that?
Huh? Oh... sure.

So, what happened? Wake up one mornin' with a hankerin' for a body like Ken's? Boyfriend talk you inta it?
Not exactly... but Ken gave me a free pass, and I didn't want to seem ungrateful...
Well, that's refreshing. So many folks seem to feel the need to be body beautiful. But, really, you're the one who should decide how you need to be.
You wanna work on your bod, then you should go for it, but, if not, who cares what anyone else thinks, even a boyfriend.
Actually, my boyfriend seems to think I'm pretty cute like this. But taking a few pounds off for my health can't be a bad thing, right?
Ever tried boxing? Burns a lot of calories...
Um... I'm kind of averse to getting punched?
Nahh... we'll have ya smack a bag around. They don't hit back... well... not hard, anyway.
Great White Hopeless.
snort
huff
THUD!

Wow... he's still giving it some good smacks. He's got a lot of endurance.
whump
Yeah...

He's tough. I like him.
He's lasting a lot longer than I did on MY first day.

I gotta admit, I didn't think he had it in him. He's impressing the Hell out of me.
You set him up, didn't you? Expected him to back out or wimp out?


I honestly didn't think of it at the time... maybe subconsciously I did.
I guess John was right...

shump

First visit, right? What's yer name?
Uh... Marty.

Well, Marty, since you're new here, I guess I can cut you some slack.
But I'm planning on using this bag, now.
That so?

Hmmmm...

Looks like there's two empty bags over there.

So why don't you go use one?
Why don't you? I don't see why *I* should move.
Oh you don't, huh, queer-boy? We've been pretty tolerant of your friends, so far, but don't push it.

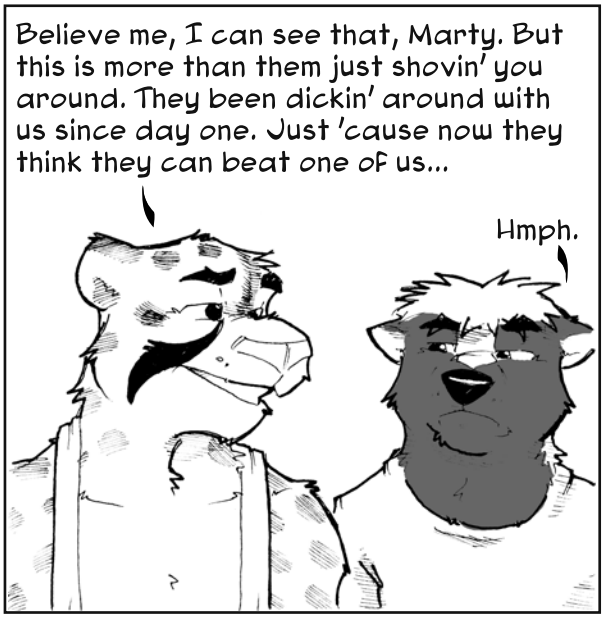
I'm pushing it?! ME? You guys come over and hassle me, and I'M pushing it? Where the Hell do you get off?
Don't you fuckin' shout at me, faggot, or else...
Or else what? You and your friends jump me on the street? Three or four against one? Oooo... big man.

You think I won't take you on, one on one?
You saying you will? So fine. Let's go.
We've got the gloves on. Let's take care of this right here and now. In the ring.

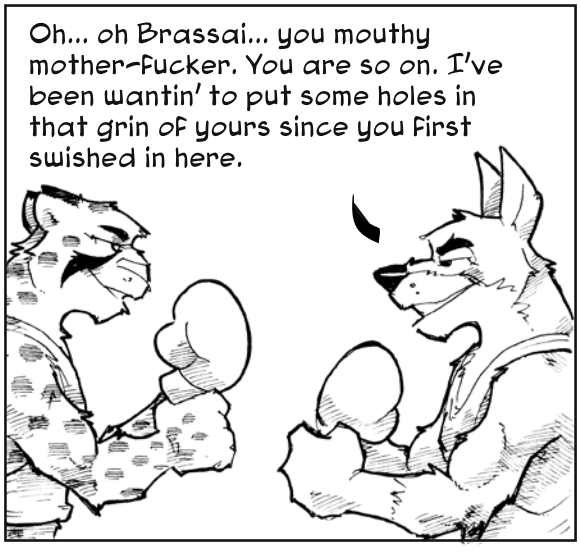
In... the ring?
Ha!
Heh, heh, heh.

What's so damned funny?
Nothin', Faggot. Not gonna be nothin' funny about this. Gonna be a goddamned tragedy...
Kill him, Mac!

What's this? A party? And I'm not invited?
Keep out of this, Brassai!
Yeah, Ken. I don't need anyone to protect me.


Believe me, I can see that, Marty. But this is more than them just shovin' you around. They been dickin' around with us since day one. Just 'cause now they think they can beat one of us...
Hmph.

Oh, Fuck that noise. I could beat any of you Faggots in the ring.
Well, care to back that claim, Mac? We put up one of ours, and you put up one of yours...
Whoever loses has to find another gym.


Oh... oh Brassai... you mouthy mother-fucker. You are so on. I've been wantin' to put some holes in that grin of yours since you first swished in here.

And your buddies will agree to this?
They'll agree, Brassai. Now let's do this.

Oh... I just said we'd put up a guy. I didn't say it would be me.
Well, who, then? Your fat friend, or...?
tap
Uh-oh...

Let's dance, asshole.

WHUMP!!!
OOF!!!
THWOCK!
Unghh... Mama?

Buh-bye! So long!

I had no idea boxing was such a satisfying sport to watch.
Heh... thanks for bein' a great cheerin' section.

I liked the part when you hit him so hard that he started to cry!
Way to go, Champ.
Heh. Thanks
bump

I guess it's naive to hope that they were the only homophobes here?
Nah... they were always just the most vocal about it.

Bet th' others won't bug us for a while, at least, though.
Well, kids. It's been a day, but I have a cat to feed.

Oh, shit, yeah. I gotta get home. Lucy'll kill me if I'm late for dinner.
How can YOU be scared of someone so small?

I'm not afraid of HER. I'm afraid of her threats to withhold sex!
I can respect that.

Marty! Great to meet you. Hope we see you again, soon.
Same here, Marty!
Nice to meet you guys, too!

Hey, Marty. Um...
Yeah?

I haven't been the nicest guy to you since you moved in. I've teased you... been hard on you in general. And... well... I'm sorry about that. You're okay.

You haven't been THAT bad. But... I don't understand why you were acting like that, anyway.
Would you believe I was jealous of you and Taye? I've always had a thing for him, and I couldn't figure out why you got him and I didn't.

But you really impressed me today. You worked hard, and you didn't back down. Maybe Taye's just a better judge of folks than me. So... I'm sorry... for everything.
Jealous? Of me?
I was, but now I'm just proud to be your friend. If we can still be friends?
We ARE friends, Ken. I can take a little teasing.
So... you think you re gonna come back to the gym?
Well... y'know, that's cool, too. You're a really good guy, Marty...
Well, I wouldn't say "Never," but it's not really my thing.
Even if you are a little chubby...
Heh, heh, heh.
Boxing ring's right over there, skinny-boy. Anytime you're feelin' lucky.

Lucy! I m home!
Oh, Ricky! Waahh!

So how'd it go, Teddy Bear? I missed ya!
It went really well. Not sure I'd go on a regular basis, but it was fun.
Cool.

You're not all sweaty and stinky, are you?
No. I showered.

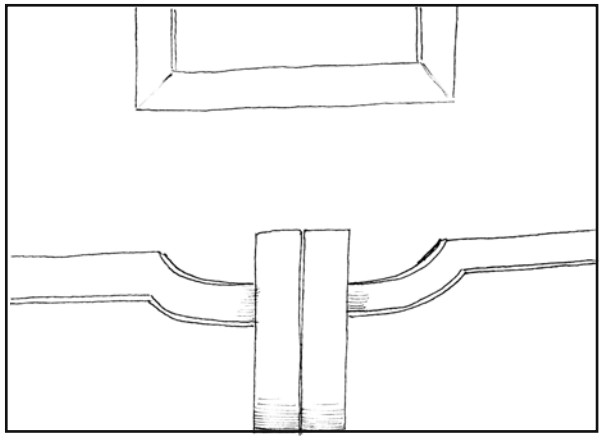
Mmmm... in that case...

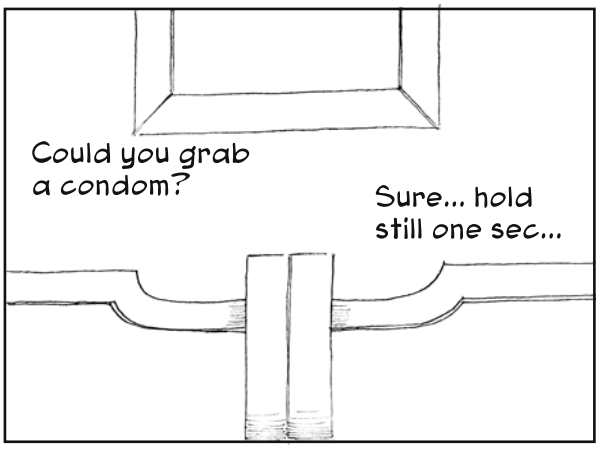
So are you hungry? I brought home some really good pasta prima-vera, and I was waiting to eat it with you, but we don't have to eat it now. Do you just wanna sleep? Oh! And I heard the best joke today... there were these two ducks...
I'm ready.

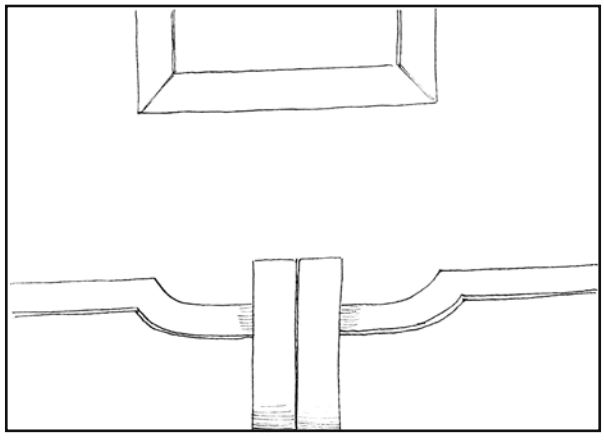
Ready? What do you mean re...?
OH! You mean *ready*!
Uh-huh.

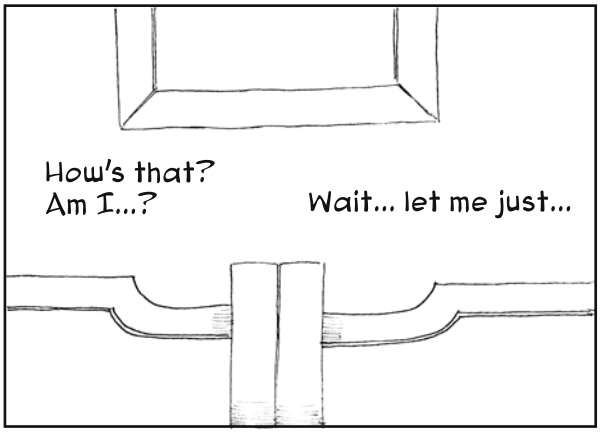
Do you wanna...?
Mmm... I wanna.

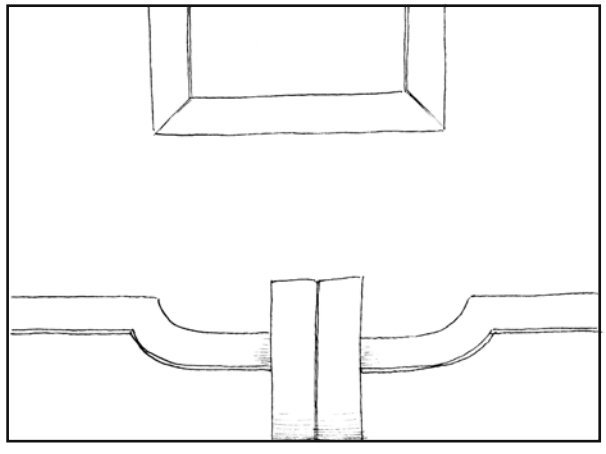
Mmmmm...

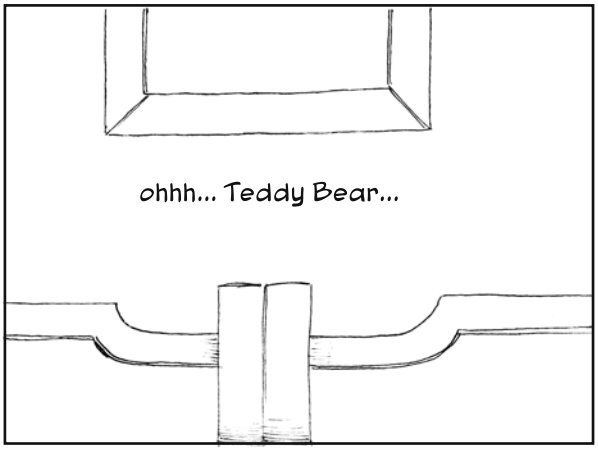



Could you grab a condom?
Sure... hold still one sec...




How's that? Am I...?
Wait... let me just...



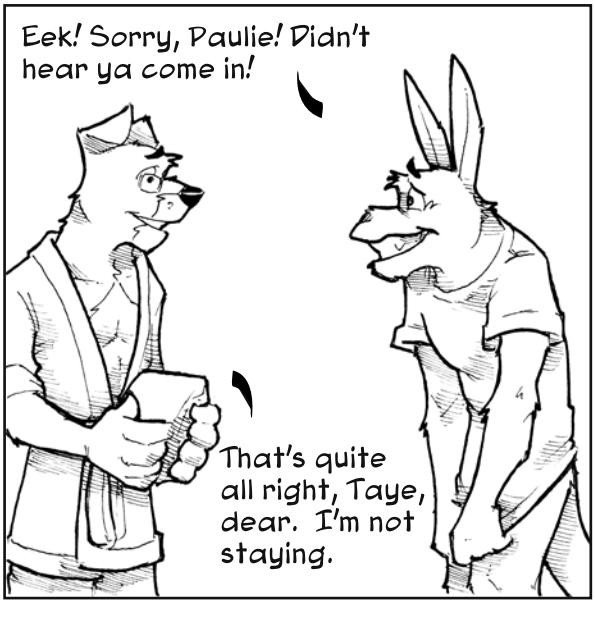

ohhh... Teddy Bear...

KNOCK, KNOCK
Coming!

Hey, Paulie. How're you?
Marty, dear, I'm so sorry to have caught you so early.
But I was wondering if we could borrow some flour. We seem to have run short.

Sure! C'mon in. I m making pancakes.
And they smell marvelous. Well, I won't keep you long.
FLOUR

Ohhhh... G'mornin', Teddy Bear! Wow... last night was completely worth waiting for! You were so...
Uhhh... Taye?


Eek! Sorry, Paulie! Didn't hear ya come in!
That's quite all right, Taye, dear. I'm not staying.

Dear Douglas, Merry Christmas! Of all the pleasures of the holidays, nothing compares to that of sitting down with one's family and celebrating together.

The funny thing is, MY family isn't related to me by blood.

I've made my family out of those I've found that I care about the most. I'm so pleased that, once a year, we have a time when we can express, in some small ways, how much we care about each other.

I'm pleased, too, that all our family's squabbles seem to be coming to an end. The world at large is hard enough on people like us without our having to make it any harder on each other.

C'mon, everyone! Family portrait! Timer's only got five seconds!

Repentant misers, virgin births, mutant reindeer... Christmas stories are full of these kinds of miracles. But, in my book, to find love and happiness in the midst of a world full of such woes... that's the true miracle.

Love, Paulie

6 kinsey circle

letters to the boys

1: Love the comic.

I was reading the letter-pages of issue 3 and noticed that most of the people writing were male or undetermined. Well, I'm female, straight and see number 1 up there. It's really nice to see the relationships, and the attitudes, and yes, in some ways it's like peeking into a world where I'm not likely to be able to go myself -- and I don't mean the furry aspects. I picked up Circles for the furry parts, but I'm staying because the story is as good as the art, and vice versa, and that's good.

For an issue-specific comment, the face-off between Taye and Roger had some very weird dynamics going on. Roger seemed to want to be friendly at first, and Taye seemed to be really over-reacting. (I suppose there might have been some voice-tones going on, but without little manga pointers and tags ("embarassed," etc.), I didn't catch those....) Hey, wait, is that Ken in the background? Talking to Roger one panel, smirking in the background in another.... He knew Taye had a sore button there and was sending Roger in an intercept course? Secret jealousies? Sheer trouble-making cussedness? Wanted Roger to get decked? Wanted Marty to get decked? Wanted Marty to deck Roger? ARGH! Now it's not just some mildly weird dynamics, it's a darn CLIFFHANGER!

You people are evil in the best possible way. On principle alone, I like you.
-- Archangel Beth

Beth, once again, we surely appreciate the kind words. Its exceedingly gratifying to find that Circles is crossing boundaries and expanding its fanbase. Welcome aboard. We're glad to hear you're staying. Hopefully this issue will have answered some of the questions about Ken's motivations.

Hey guys,
I just want to say that your work for your comic Circles is outstanding. I picked up the first one at a recent con (Further Confusion to be exact), and I was blown away. The characters and storyline are simply irresistibly fascinating. I guess my only thought is why didn't someone do something like this sooner, I'm just really glad you guys did it, and pulled it off perfectly in my eyes.

With characters that anyone can confide in in some way shape or form, I definitely hope that the storyline and comics continue. Being furry and gay obviously makes me love this comic that much more, but I'm sure that others who are gay as well can find some sense of identity and hope with this kind of storyline as well. I definitely remember what it was like just coming out -- right down to the blushing heh.... At any rate, keep up the good work guys. I look forward to, hopefully, many more issues.
-- Ed

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Boy, do I remember the blushing. Seriously, though, thank you, Ed. I hope you've picked up the other issues and enjoyed them as well. Ultimately, Circles isn't just a coming out story - it's a story about relationships and life in general.

Hello guys,

I've read issues 1 and 2 of Circles, and I must say... I really enjoy it. Marty is so much like myself, it's scary. :) I'm 18, and I've been in the fandom for some time, but have just come to terms with my sexuality, and Circles is such a refreshing addition to the community. I was wondering if any of you were planning on attending Anthrocon 2003 this July? I'm going to be there, as my first 'con. I'd love to meet the creators behind the masterpiece!

Thanks so much for putting out a comic that reflects a part of the fandom that few publish. I can't wait to get issue #3, since it's already out. I have a lot of ideas that could happen for the ongoing lives of the 6, and I can't wait for more issues to come out. Thank you again so much, you've made me feel so great by creating this wonderful comic :)

-Justin Russell / Dusky

Glad to have pleased, Dusky. Marty is apparently like a lot of our readers, as many people tell us how much they identify with him. Hopefully, you know by now that we are going to be at Anthrocon 2003 If you're reading this, I hope you've bought not only issue 3 but issue 4 as well.

Dear Circles Crew,
After attending Anthrocon '02 (had fun as always) and picking up Circles issue 2 and 3, I'll have to say that you guys are doing a good job with the series. So good in fact that I actually saw issue 3 in the latest Previews magazine!

Issue 2 was funny, with Marty going nuts because of his family. Even funnier was how he and Doug reacted due to Marty's grandmother concerning her eating habits. What really got me, though, was the budding relationship between Taye and Marty. In this day and age I've noticed that a lot of people are too vain and even more vain in who they want in terms of looks. It's cool that Taye expresses an interest in Marty regardless of looks.

Issue 3 was intense between Doug and Arthur. It was good that the "who's fault" issue was resolved. I was afraid things would get physical considering the harsh words Doug had said. I felt sorry for Doug however because I sorta know how he feels about the loss of friends

and colleagues. My best friend was almost lost during the tragedy of September 11th. Out of luck he managed to catch the last train home before the city was sealed off. I became more angry at the world, but I said to myself "What's the point of being angry when I can try to do what I can to help instead?" I was there for my friend when I found out he made it home safely and called relatives to reassure them. In all, after what has happened during 9/11, I guess many people decided to wise up and put aside petty differences. Evidently Doug and Art are a good example of this. Again you have my thanks and support to your wonderful series. Cheers :)

--Rusty.

Well, if you've ever seen me at a Con, you know that I have Paulie's attitude to go with Marty's build. ;) I have always been amazed at people who have been attracted to me, rather than to the body-beautiful type, and I wanted to put both some of that awe and some of that love into Circles.

September 11, 2001. Whew. It's such a long time ago, in some ways, but still with me on a daily basis in others. I wish that we were concentrating more on the healing process and less on the "they must be punished" process, but people express grief in different ways.

Hi there,
I just received Circles #1, 2 and 3 in my mailbox, just two weeks after discovering your website and some art from the comic on the web. I really fell in love with it! This is a wonderful comic, and I just wanted to thank and congratulate the autors for that. You have a new fan in France :-) Bye

--Jérémy Farnaud

Allo, Jérémy! Talk about crossing boundaries! Despite what some people here in America seem to think, Vive le France! You're very welcome here.

Coming Next Issue

Take your mind back to the 1970's. The gay rights movement was young, and so was Paulie Mayhew. Follow Paulie's story from London to Boston. Meet his first love, Colin. Learn about his first encounters with John and Arthur and how they became the friends they are today. And, yes, you'll finally learn exactly how a smart guy like Paulie ended up sick. Circles Issue 5: "A Time of Innocence."

Upcoming Conventions

Rabbit Valley will be attending Further Confusion 2004, January 22 - 26. Stop by our table for the latest Circles products and information.

Contact us:
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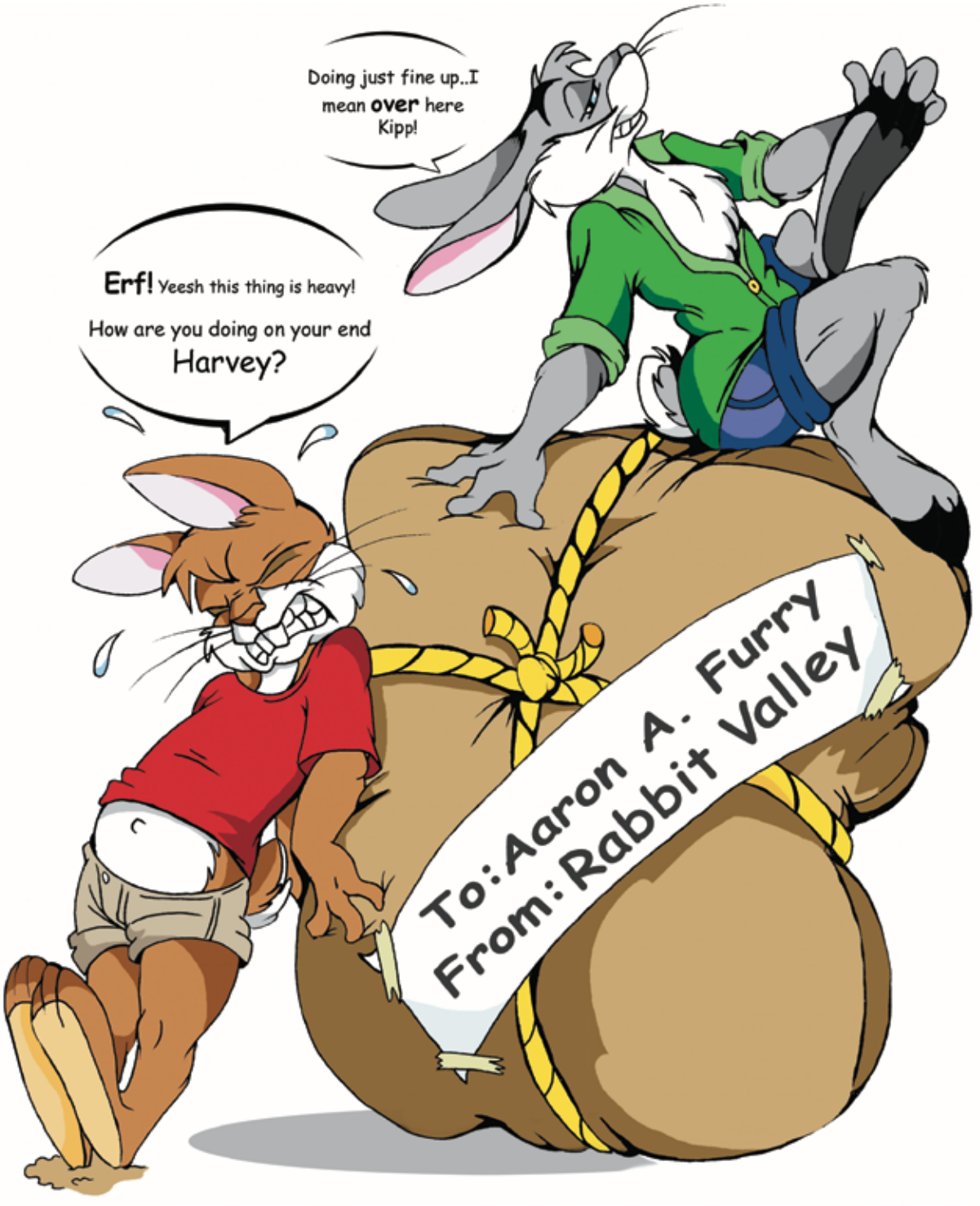
Doing just fine up..I mean over here Kipp!
Erf! Yeesh this thing is heavy!
How are you doing on your end Harvey?
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